

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 14, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In this Office Action, claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1-8 are rejected. Acknowledgement was made of a claim for foreign priority. The Information Disclosure Statement(s) submitted July 19, 2006 was considered.

In this response, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully submitted for consideration by the Examiner. This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is based on a European Search Report dated April 25, 2008 and therefore a certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) is provided.

By this amendment, claim 3 is cancelled. Claims 1-2 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of cancelled claim 3. Claims 4-7 have been amended to overcome the multiple dependency objection. New dependent claims 9-11 are presented. Applicants point out that the limitations recited in claim 9 are similar to that of claim 5. Support for claims 10-11 can be found on paragraphs 33-37. Accordingly, no statutory new matter has been added. Based on the discussion to follow, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal and reconsideration of the objections and rejections in the Office Action pursuant to the claim amendments, *supra*, and responses below, *infra*.

Claim Objections

The claims as originally filed were objected to for being in improper form because of multiple dependency. The claims have been properly amended to overcome the claim objections.

Double Patenting

Claim 1 stands provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 of co-pending Application No. 10/593,287 (hereafter '287). The rejection is moot in view of the incorporation of the claim 3 subject matter into claim 1 as described further below.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

35 USC 103(a)

I. Claims 1-2 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Abe (US 2003/0218153) in view of Minami et al (JP 409249640A). As each of claims 1 and 2 have been amended to include subject matter of claim 3, and claim 3 was only rejected based on the combination of Jang in view of Minami, the discussion below focuses on that asserted rejection against claim 3.

II. This is, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jang in view of Minami et al. The rejection as to claim 3 is moot. The rejection is traversed for amended claims 1-2, which have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 3, *supra*.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal and reconsideration of this rejection, as stated above, based on the following:

Applicant's claims 1-2 of the present invention, as amended, recite a transparent conductive thin layer other than the transparent conductive thin film of the uppermost layer is an amorphous oxide thin film composed of In-Sn-O, In-Zn-O, In-W-O, or In-W-Zn-O. Jang does not disclose an amorphous oxide film composed of In-Sn-O, In-Zn-O, In-W-O, or In-W-Zn-O.

Instead, as described in the Abstract and shown in Figure 4, Jang teaches an optical filter for plasma displays, including (in order from the substrate side):

transparent substrate, 41;

first transparent dielectric layer, 42, - Group 1 metal oxide (TiO₂, ZnO, In₂O₃, or CdO) or material obtained by doping the Group 1 metal oxide with Group 2 metal (In, Ga, Al, Sn, or Sb); silver (Ag) layer, 43; a metal silver-diffusion barrier layer, 44, - Cd, Ti or mixture thereof (See col. 3, line 24); and

a second transparent dielectric layer, 42', - Group 1 metal oxide (TiO₂, ZnO, In₂O₃, or CdO) or material obtained by doping the Group 1 metal oxide with Group 2 metal (In, Ga, Al, Sn, or Sb).

Thus, according to Jang, the silver layer and the metal silver-diffusion barrier layer are sandwiched between the first transparent dielectric layer and the second transparent dielectric layer, because Jang is directed to an optical filter for plasma display having anti-reflecting function and shield effect against electromagnetic wave and IR light. In contrast, according to the present invention, a layer other than the uppermost layer is an amorphous oxide thin film composed of In-Sn-O, In-Zn-O, In-W-O, or In-W-Zn-O.

Therefore, even for argument sake, if Jang is modified by Minami by replacing the second transparent dielectric layer, 42, of Jang with the In-Ga-O film of Minami, one of ordinary skill in the art would not obtain the laminate configuration recited in claim 1 or 2, much less the claimed work function 5.1 eV or more or the surface resistance of 100 Ω/□ (claim 1) and 50 Ω/□ (claim 2) or less. Accordingly, claims 1-2 overcome the prior art references cited. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejection.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objections and rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Therefore it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any

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reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

If any fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 034145R003.

Respectfully submitted,

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DCR/TBP